

By Jamie Dean

<http://www.worldmag.com/webextra/17449>

Christians across the region said they encountered bureaucratic hassles: Local authorities denied visas to foreign workers and stalled registrations for hundreds of churches. In other countries, persecution wasn't a new development: The **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** kept Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on its list of countries of particular concern, citing egregious violations of religious freedom in the predominantly Muslim lands.